

House Concurrent Resolution No. 48

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES HOUGHTON (Sponsor) AND SCHATZ (Co-sponsor).

5917L.021

WHEREAS, the Egg Products Inspection Act of 2012, H.R. 3798, was introduced January 23, 2012. The bill would mandate all commercial egg producers to transition from conventional cage housing to colony cages by the end of 2029; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3798 would codify an agreement reached in 2011 between United Egg Producers (UEP) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) which would nullify existing state laws and deny state legislatures the ability to enact laws to regulate egg production facilities; and

WHEREAS, the UEP/HSUS agreement calls for an end to HSUS-led ballot initiatives specifying hen space and housing types, HSUS undercover investigations, HSUS campaigns to intimidate customers, and lawsuits between HSUS and UEP; and

WHEREAS, while the legislation is supported by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Farm Sanctuary and other animal rights groups, the National Consumers League, H.R. 3798 also has considerable opposition; and

WHEREAS, mainstream agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), the National Chicken Council, the National Turkey Federation, and the National Milk Producers Federation, all cited primarily their belief that the bill sets a "dangerous precedent" for federal legislation in the future that would specify how other livestock should be housed and produced; and

WHEREAS, these opposition groups believe that H.R. 3798 would create government-imposed standards for egg production that are based on the political goals of HSUS, which seeks to eventually shut down animal agriculture by government mandate; and

WHEREAS, as science has improved animal care, farmers and ranchers have steadily and voluntarily adopted improvements to enhance the health, well-being, and productivity of their animals and the viability of their operations; and

WHEREAS, the United States food supply is too important for scientifically proven production standards to be outlawed for political reasons; and

35 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 3798 would take away producers' freedom to operate in ways that are
36 best for their animals, increase food prices, devastate niche and small producers by requiring
37 them to label each individual egg, and redirect resources away from enhancing food safety; and
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39 **WHEREAS**, any legislation that would result in mandated animal care standards based
40 largely on the political goals of an animal rights group that seeks to eventually shut down animal
41 agriculture by government mandate raises serious concerns about the ability of a radical animal
42 rights group to legitimize a policy package that will undoubtedly be used to coerce other
43 livestock producers; and
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45 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 3798 ignores the science supporting the consensus among mainstream
46 agricultural veterinarians, animal scientists, and livestock producers regarding scientifically
47 proven production standards; and
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49 **WHEREAS**, heavy-handed government mandates based primarily on the extreme
50 political agenda of animal rights activists who have no regard for science-based animal
51 husbandry or for the hard-working families that provide our citizens with wholesome food from
52 well-cared for livestock; and
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54 **WHEREAS**, the State of Missouri is one of the leading states in the number of farms,
55 crop production, and livestock products in the nation, ranking second only to Texas in the
56 number of farms and beef livestock production; and
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58 **WHEREAS**, Missouri's agricultural sectors directly contribute over \$12 billion to the
59 state, with the total economic impact of agricultural sectors exceeding \$31 billion, and employ
60 approximately 250,000 people; and
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62 **WHEREAS**, Missouri livestock and livestock products are responsible for over half of
63 Missouri's agricultural production; and
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65 **WHEREAS**, any federal legislation which would nullify existing state laws and deny
66 state legislatures the ability to enact laws specific to their own needs is an unacceptable intrusion
67 into the ability of states to meet the needs of their citizenry; and
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69 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 3798 could set the model for a one-size-fits-all approach to livestock
70 production, which does not account for the diverse settings in all 50 states:
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72 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
73 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
74 concurring therein, hereby strongly oppose the passage of the Egg Products Inspection Act of
75 2012, H.R. 3798, which would nullify existing state laws and deny state legislatures the ability
76 to enact laws to regulate egg factory conditions; and

77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly urges our
78 Congressional delegation to oppose the passage of this federal legislation which could
79 significantly harm Missouri's livestock industry by setting a dangerous precedent for federal
80 legislation in the future that would specify how other livestock should be housed and produced;
81 and

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83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
84 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
85 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of
86 Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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